

## CLAIMS

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1. An image printing method comprising:  
a regular character string registration step of registering a character string having at least one character as a regular character string;

a regular printing instruction step of instructing regular printing for printing said regular character string, irrespective of whether or not a character string other than said regular character string is being input or edited; and

a regular printing step of printing a regular character string image corresponding to said regular character string on a printing object as a print image when said regular printing is instructed.

2. An image printing method according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings can be registered as said regular character strings,

the image printing method further including a regular printing image selection step of selecting any one of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing.

3. An image printing method according to claim 2, wherein said regular printing image selection step includes:

an identifier display step of displaying a plurality of types of identifiers corresponding respectively to said plurality of types of regular character strings on a predetermined display screen; and

an identifier selection step of selecting any one of said plurality of types of identifiers.

4. An image printing method according to claim 3, wherein said regular printing image selection step includes:

a display-restoring information storage step of storing display-restoring information required for

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restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and

a display restoration step of restoring said contents displayed on said predetermined display screen at said time of storing said display-restoring information, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier.

5. An image printing method according to claim 1, wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs.

6. An image printing method according to claim 1, further including an arbitrary character string entry step of entering an arbitrary character string having at least one character,

wherein at said regular character string registration step, said arbitrary character string is registered as one type of said regular character string.

7. An image printing method according to claim 1, wherein said printing object is a tape.

8. An image printing apparatus comprising:  
regular character string registration means for registering a character string having at least one character as a regular character string;

regular printing instruction means for instructing regular printing for printing said regular character string, irrespective of whether or not a character string other than said regular character string is being input or edited; and

regular printing means for printing a regular character string image corresponding to said regular character string as a print image on a printing object when

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said regular printing is instructed.

9. An image printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings can be registered as said regular character strings,

the image printing apparatus further including regular print image selection means for selecting any of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing.

10. An image printing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said regular print image selection means includes:

identifier display means for displaying a plurality of types of identifiers corresponding to said plurality of types of regular character strings on a predetermined display screen; and

identifier selection means for selecting any of said plurality of types of identifiers.

11. An image printing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said regular print image selection means includes:

display-restoring information storage means for storing in advance display-restoring information required for restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and

display restoration means for restoring said contents displayed at said time of storing said display-restoring information on said predetermined display screen, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier.

12. An image printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said regular character strings include a character string representative of at least one of a person's name,

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an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs.

13. An image printing apparatus according to claim 8, further including arbitrary character string entry means for entering an arbitrary character string having at least one character,

wherein said regular character string registration means registers said arbitrary character string as one type of said regular character string.

14. An image printing apparatus according to claim 13, further including:

arbitrary printing instruction means for instructing arbitrary printing for printing said arbitrary character string entered; and

arbitrary printing means for printing an arbitrary character string image corresponding to said arbitrary character string as said print image when said arbitrary printing is instructed.

15. An image printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said printing object is a tape.

16. An image printing method according to claim 1, further including a related character string registration step of registering said regular character string as a representative character string, and registering at least one character string related to said representative character string as related character strings, such that said related character strings are correlated with said representative character string, to thereby construct one regular character string group including said representative character string as a representative thereof, and

wherein said regular printing step includes a related character string printing step of printing, when a

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 representative character string image corresponding to said representative character string is printed as said regular character string image, at least one related character string image corresponding to at least one of said related character strings such that said at least one related character string image accompanies said representative character string image.

17. An image printing method according to claim 16, wherein at said related character string printing step, at least one predetermined related character string image of said related character strings is printed such that said at least one predetermined related character string image accompanies said representative character string image.

18. An image printing method according to claim 16, wherein a plurality of types of related character strings can be registered as said related character strings,

wherein said related character string printing step includes:

a related print image selection step of selecting at least one arbitrary related character string of said related character strings; and

a related print image printing step of printing said at least one selected arbitrary related character string such that said at least one selected arbitrary related character string accompanies said representative character string image.

19. An image printing method according to claim 16, wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings can be registered as said regular character strings,

the image printing method further including a regular printing image selection step of selecting any one of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing.

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20. An image printing method according to claim 19, wherein said regular character string group is registered such that related character strings can be retrieved by using an identifier corresponding to said representative character string as a retrieving condition, and

wherein at said regular print image selection step, any of said plurality of regular character strings is selected based on a plurality of types of identifiers corresponding respectively to said plurality of types of regular character strings.

21. An image printing method according to claim 20, wherein said regular character string group is registered such that said representative character string corresponding to said identifier is registered separately therefrom as one type of said related character string.

22. An image printing method according to claim 20, wherein assuming that predetermined two identifiers included in said plurality of types of identifiers are defined as a first identifier and a second identifier, and regular character string groups corresponding to said first identifier and said second identifier are defined as a first regular character string group and a second regular character string group, respectively, at least one of related character strings of said second regular character string group is included in related character strings of said first regular character string group, as a common related character string.

23. An image printing method according to claim 22, wherein related character strings of said first regular character string group and said second regular character string group are registered in a form of matrix data retrievable by any of predetermined multi-dimensional retrieving conditions including said first identifier and said second identifier, and said common related character

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string is registered as data retrievable by using either of said first identifier and said second identifier as retrieving conditions.

24. An image printing method according to claim 20, wherein said regular character string group is registered in a form of a list of data which enables related character strings of said regular character string group to be retrieved by using an identifier corresponding to said regular character string group as a retrieving condition.

25. An image printing method according to claim 20, wherein said regular print image selection step includes:

an identifier display step of displaying said plurality of types of identifiers on a predetermined display screen; and

an identifier selection step of selecting any one of said plurality of types of identifiers.

26. An image printing method according to claim 25, wherein said identifier display step includes a related character string display step of displaying related character strings which are to be printed when each of said identifiers for selection is selected, together with said each of said identifiers corresponding thereto.

27. An image printing method according to claim 26, wherein said identifier display step further includes a related character string reading step of displaying, when a predetermined reading instruction is provided in a state of each of said identifiers being displayed, all related character strings corresponding to said displayed identifier in a readable manner.

28. An image printing method according to claim 25, wherein said regular print image selection step further includes:

a display-restoring information storage step of

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storing display-restoring information required for restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and

a display restoration step of restoring said contents displayed on said predetermined display screen at said time of storing said display-restoring information, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier.

29. An image printing method according to claim 16, wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, an address, a phone number, and a name of a division to which a person belongs.

30. An image printing method according to claim 29, wherein when said representative character string is a character string representative of a person's name or an appellation, said related character string includes a character string representative of an address related to said person's name or said appellation.

31. An image printing method according to claim 30, wherein said related character string further includes at least one of a postal code and a barcode which correspond to said address.

32. An image printing method according to claim 29, wherein when said representative character string is a character string representative of a person's name or an appellation, said related character string includes a character string representative of a phone number related to said person's name or said appellation.

33. An image printing method according to claim 32, wherein said related character string representative of said phone number additionally includes a character string

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representative of an attribute of said phone number.

34. An image printing method according to claim 33, further including a phone number attribute deletion step of automatically deleting said character string representative of said attribute of said phone number for conversion into a character string indicative of said phone number alone.

35. An image printing method according to claim 32, further including a representative phone number selection step of selecting, when there exist a plurality of said related character strings each indicative of a phone number related to said name or said appellation, a related character string representative of a representative phone number representative of said related character strings, from said plurality of said related character strings.

36. An image printing method according to claim 28, further including an arbitrary character string entry step of entering an arbitrary character string having at least one character string,

wherein at said regular character string registration step, said arbitrary character string is registered as one type of a regular character string other than said regular character string.

37. An image printing method according to claim 16, wherein said printing object is a tape.

38. An image printing apparatus according to claim 8, further including related character string registration mean for registering said regular character string as a representative character string, and registering at least one character string related to said representative character string as related character strings, such that said related character strings are correlated with said representative character string, to thereby construct one

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regular character string group including said representative character string as a representative thereof, and

wherein said regular printing means includes related character string printing means for printing, when a representative character string image corresponding to said representative character string is printed as said regular character string image, at least one related character string image corresponding to at least one of said related character strings such that said at least one related character string image accompanies said representative character string image.

39. An image printing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said related character string printing means prints at least one predetermined related character string image of said related character strings such that said at least one predetermined related character string image accompanies said representative character string image.

40. An image printing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein a plurality of types of related character strings can be registered as said related character strings,

wherein said related character string printing means includes:

related print image selection means for selecting at least one arbitrary related character string of said related character strings; and

related print image printing means for printing said at least one selected arbitrary related character string such that said at least one selected arbitrary related character string accompanies said representative character string image.

41. An image printing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings

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can be registered as said regular character strings, the image printing apparatus further including regular printing image selection means for selecting any of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing.

42. An image printing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said regular character string group is registered such that related character strings can be retrieved by using an identifier corresponding to said representative character string as a retrieving condition, and

wherein said regular print image selection means selects any of said plurality of regular character strings based on a plurality of types of identifiers corresponding respectively to said plurality of types of regular character strings.

43. An image printing apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said regular character string group is registered such that said representative character string corresponding to said identifier is registered separately therefrom as one type of said related character string.

44. An image printing apparatus according to claim 42, wherein assuming that predetermined two identifiers included in said plurality of types of identifiers are defined as a first identifier and a second identifier, and regular character string groups corresponding to said first identifier and said second identifier are defined as a first regular character string group and a second regular character string group respectively, at least one of related character strings of said second regular character string group is included in related character strings of said first regular character string group, as a common related character string.

45. An image printing apparatus according to claim 44, wherein related character strings of said first regular

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character string group and said second regular character string group are registered in a form of matrix data retrievable by any of predetermined multi-dimensional retrieving conditions including said first identifier and said second identifier, and said common related character string is registered as data retrievable by using either of said first identifier and said second identifier as retrieving conditions.

46. An image printing apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said regular character string group is registered in a form of a list of data which enables related character strings of said regular character string group to be retrieved by using an identifier corresponding to said regular character string group as a retrieving condition.

47. An image printing apparatus according to claim 42, wherein said regular print image selection means includes:

identifier display means for displaying said plurality of types of identifiers on a predetermined display screen; and

identifier selection means for selecting any of said plurality of types of identifiers.

48. An image printing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said identifier display means includes related character string display means of displaying related character strings which are to be printed when each of said identifiers for selection is selected together with said each of said identifiers corresponding thereto.

49. An image printing apparatus according to claim 48, wherein said identifier display means further includes related character string reading means for displaying, when a predetermined reading instruction is provided in a state of each of said identifiers being displayed, all related

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character strings corresponding to said displayed identifier in a readable manner.

50. An image printing apparatus according to claim 47, wherein said regular print image selection means further includes:

display-restoring information storage means for storing display-restoring information required for restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and

display restoration means for restoring said contents displayed on said predetermined display screen at said time of storing said display-restoring information, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier.

51. An image printing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, an address, a phone number, and a name of a division to which person belongs.

52. An image printing apparatus according to claim 51, wherein when said representative character string is a character string representative of a person's name or an appellation, said related character string includes a character string representative of an address related to said person's name or said appellation.

53. An image printing apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said related character string further includes at least one of a postal code and a barcode which correspond to said address.

54. An image printing apparatus according to claim 51, wherein when said representative character string is a character string representative of a person's name or an

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appellation, said related character string includes a character string representative of a phone number related to said person's name or said appellation.

55. An image printing apparatus according to claim 54, wherein said related character string representative of said phone number additionally includes a character string representative of an attribute of said phone number.

56. An image printing apparatus according to claim 55, further including phone number attribute deletion means for automatically deleting said character string representative of said attribute of said phone number for conversion into a character string indicative of said phone number alone.

57. An image printing apparatus according to claim 54, further including representative phone number selection means for selecting, when there exist a plurality of said related character strings each indicative of a phone number related to said name or said appellation, a related character string representative of a representative phone number representative of said related character strings, from said plurality of related character strings.

58. An image printing apparatus according to claim 50, further including arbitrary character string entry means for entering an arbitrary character string having at least one character string,

wherein said regular character string registration means registers said arbitrary character string as one type of a regular character string other than said regular character string.

59. An image printing apparatus according to claim 58, further including:

arbitrary printing instruction means for instructing arbitrary printing for printing said arbitrary character

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string entered; and

arbitrary printing means for printing an arbitrary character string image corresponding to said arbitrary character string as said print image when said arbitrary printing is instructed.

60. An image printing apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said printing object is a tape.

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